



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY  
EDGAR SNOWDEN  
MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1879

Four people have hard times. It has been so from the beginning of the world, and nothing has occurred since to indicate that it will not continue to be so until the end thereof. Poverty is an essential attribute of humanity. Its existence is a recognized fact in the Old Testament, and its perpetual continuance is asserted in the New. Poverty tends to ignorance, ignorance to poverty, and both to vice; and, as human nature is unchangeable, this condition has always been created by democracy to advance their own ends by fomenting a feeling of hostility in the poor against their more fortunate neighbors. Mr. Parrell had many prototypes in Rome during the times of the Commonwealth, and the agitation of agrarian laws was the inevitable means they employed in their efforts to obtain the requisite number of votes to keep them in office or to secure their reelection. It must be remarked, however, that there is no instance recorded in Roman history of the dupes of the demagogues of those days having ever beaten a poor man almost to death and cut off his ear simply because he voluntarily paid his rent, as was recently done in Ireland. If the people of Great Britain are to be taxed to buy all the land in Ireland and give it to those who till it, what is to prevent them from being compelled to do the same with regard to the land in England, Scotland, and all other portions of the empire? And if the poor of the country are to be thus provided for why shall not these in the cities and towns be cared for in the same manner, and be presented with the houses they live in? And if the land of Ireland were divided and parcelled out according to Mr. Parrell's plan, how long would it be before the thirty wars would lay out the untidy ones, and a new distribution have to be made? The whole scheme is absurd and reflects as little credit upon the humanity and patriotism of its advocates as it does upon the honesty and intelligence of their followers. The "equality of opportunity" is all that reasonable men can ask of the government under which they live, and all that wise governments will give.

The subject of the negro vote at the recent election in Virginia is a subject discussed in some of the newspapers not only within but without the State's borders. There is no doubt that some of that vote was cast for the debt-paying candidates. All the intelligent negroes, those who properly estimate the importance of a multiplying obligations, and all with national interests to preserve, voted for the supporters of the McCall bill, as did the conservative, not because that bill was entirely satisfactory, but because it was the best that could be obtained under the circumstances, and would accomplish what all the true friends of the State desired, the settlement of the debt question, and let capital and immigration know what they might expect if they came to Virginia. But it is no less true that the number so voting formed an exceedingly small part of the aggregate negro vote cast. The main body voted with the rest, and were induced to do so by two motives, their animosity to the old master class who the rebels have taught them to believe are their enemies, and who were almost unanimously in favor of the bill, and by the idea that had been instilled into them that their natural drive to plunder somebody would be gratified by the practical operation of the principle of repudiation.

The semi-centennial of the Farmville Mercury, edited by the genial and accomplished J. A. St. Andrew, is to be celebrated next month, on which occasion the proprietors of the Mercury propose to entertain Mr. McRobert, its founder, at a dinner, when Major Drinkard, of the Richmond Dispatch (formerly of the Mercury) is to preside. The Mercury for half a century has held an influential position in the press of the State, and during that long period it has advocated the best interests of the people.

TELEGRAPHING WITHOUT WIRES.—The Journal of the Telegraph says that Professor Loomis continues his experiments in the mountains of West Virginia to demonstrate the theory that at certain elevations there is a natural electric current, by taking advantage of which telegraphic signals may be sent without the use of wires. It is said that he has telegraphed a distance of eleven miles by means of kites down with copper wires. When the kites reached the same altitude or got into the same current, communication by means of an instrument similar to that of Morse was easy, but ceased as soon as one of the kites was lowered. He has built towers on two hills about twenty miles apart, and from the tops of them has run up steel rods into the region of the electric current.

A LOTTERY PRIZE.—The wife of Patrick J. O'Brien, a printer, who drew a prize of \$5,000 in a lottery last April, in New York, has come to the conclusion that his luck has proved a great misfortune to her. In six months he has spent \$2,000 in personal enjoyment, and he disdains his former industrious habits, leaving her to support herself and provide for the children. On Wednesday he visited his wife, when she upbraided him for his prodigality. He threatened her life, and he has been sent to Blackwell's Island for six months on her complaint. He has a balance of \$1,400 in bank, but he refuses to let her have a penny of it. The lawyers will probably interfere in his behalf and spend a portion of his lottery balance in efforts to regain his liberty.

THE MINERS.—COLUMBIA, O., Nov. 23.—The miners from here, King Valley and Shawnee mines have not determined what action to take to morrow on the reduction of pay. There will be a general suspension of work, and miners from Strainsville, Nelsonville, Haydenville and Shawnee will meet and agree upon the course to be pursued.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

Messrs. Moody & Shockey, the revolutionists, are at St. Louis.  
Secretary McHenry, in his last evening report, favors an increase of the army.  
Army officers at Washington believe that the commission will prove a failure.  
Mr. J. H. Brown, the retiring Register of Wells, died yesterday in Baltimore of cancer pneumonia.  
The Attorney General of Michigan has sued the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railroad for \$1,000,000 back taxes.  
Four-fifths of the business portion of Farmington, Conn., were burned Saturday night. Eighteen buildings in all were destroyed. Loss \$150,000.  
Mrs. Beckmaster killed herself in Chicago on Friday because her husband had prevented her continuing the use of morphine, to which she had become addicted.

On December 1st the Cumberland and Hanck division of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal will be completed. L. G. Stanhope, now superintendent of the Hanck division, will be in charge of the completed division.  
Turkey, being unable to supply a legation at Washington, will recall very soon her present representative, and if the other nations will follow suit this includes upon the body politic will be removed altogether.  
Efforts are being made to secure the holding of both the democratic and republican national conventions at Chicago next year. The republican managers promise to fit up that building with seats for 29,000 persons, and offer it free.

A party of 120 Latter Day saints from South America, in charge of Elder John Morgan, passed through St. Louis Saturday night, en route to Mexico, in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, where there is already a colony of between 300 and 400.

At Weldon, N. C., on Saturday, a young man named John Merritt, a bad character; E. M. Hicks, and L. P. Larkin, formerly sheriff of Halifax county, got into a dispute as to a fence on E. M. Hicks' lot. Hicks threatened if any man put his hand on his fence to pull it down he would shoot him. Larkin attempted to pull down the fence, and Hicks with a pistol fired on Larkin, tearing both hands very badly. Merritt then ran out with a double-barreled shot-gun, loaded with buckshot, and fired on Hicks. The entire load entered his face, blowing his head almost from his body. As Hicks fired twice at the parties, but without inflicting any wounds, Hicks was killed instantly. He leaves a wife and seven or eight children. Merritt was promptly arrested.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

Winter has set in severely all over Europe. The Chilians have invaded Peru by land, and are marching on Lima.

Mr. John Haden Delaney, late editor of the London Times, is dead at the age of 62.

The difficulties between the Spanish Cabinet and the Parliament on the Cuban question have been adjusted.

There were numerous popular demonstrations in Ireland and several English cities Saturday, all of which passed off without disturbance.

Intelligence has been received in official circles at St. Petersburg to the effect that the British government intends to occupy Herat next spring, in alliance with Persia.

A Paris dispatch says: "The ex-Queen Isabella and the Princess Mathilde Bonaparte visited Eugenie while here." Paul de Cassagne, in the Paris, heartily approves of the spontaneous visit of Prince Jerome.

When the ex-Empress Eugenie arrived at Madrid she found her mother, the Countess de Montijo, already dead. King Alfonso, who was awaiting Eugenie at the station, communicated the news of her mother's death. Eugenie wished to go to her mother's residence, but was prevailed upon to go to the Aida palace, where many thousands of visitors called and inscribed their names.

## Virginia.

A Louisiana correspondent of the Petersburg Index Appeal writes:  
"It is deeply mortifying to think of the results of the late election. That Virginia should have given a majority in favor of repudiation is a shame and disgrace and will ever be flag in our eyes. I had hoped that her sons would always so feel that they could ever deserve what Mr. Foster read at the Exchange Hotel in Richmond, on the occasion of a banquet given to the Western visitors, that it was a poem and ran thus:

A health to thy name, "Old Virginia,"  
And a toast to thy time honored past;  
Go to the West, with its broad rolling rivers,  
From the North, where the sun is the best.  
A wreath for thy brow that shall crown thee  
The favored, the grandest and best.  
And thy place in the rank of the nation  
According to acclaim from the rest.

Thy hand is the cradle of honor,  
And chivalry dwells on thy soil.  
Thy name is unsullied, undimmed,  
And thy record is read in the light of day.  
Of thy rights the rights that are dearest,  
Thy unwavering veteran champion  
Of freedom, thy valor has stood.  
A cheer for thy bravery in battle,  
A cheer for thine honor in peace,  
A blessing to thine home around thee  
The time that all history ceases  
Let thy motto be that of the nation,  
Let thy valor be known to the world,  
So that the land of whose Union  
The flag of the past is unfurled.

How on certain passages of this poetry to sing when Virginia's sons have tried to vote her to dishonor? No doubt many are like the companionless reader who came to your correspondent. When the horse is stolen the stable door is locked—when the will is dry you are thirsty; now having erected in existing the votes for repudiation these readers are beginning to ruminate on what they have done."

62 YEARS BUILDING A CATHEDRAL.—The largest cathedral in the world, that of Cologne, is fast approaching completion. Its first stone was laid on August 15, 1248. The six hundred and thirty-first year of its building was completed on the 15th of August last, and it is hoped that the next anniversary will really see the finishing of the minster. The two towers have now reached their last stage, and have only to be fitted with their massive caps of solid stone work. For this purpose two scaffolds have to be erected at a dizzy height; one of them, however, approaches completion. When the caps have been finished, then a still higher story will have to be added to the scaffolding, in order to fix on the tops of the caps the gigantic foliated crosses, almost thirty feet high, which are to crown the towers. This operation will, it is expected, be performed next spring.

A WIFE'S CAPRICE.—A divorce suit is pending in Philadelphia, brought by William H. Sowers against Josephine Gordon Sowers. The husband occupies a prominent social position at Germantown, Pa., and the wife's family reside at Georgetown, in the District of Columbia. They were married in 1873, she being thirty-five and he forty years of age. She died him in 1873, and the suit is brought on the ground of desertion. She has twice attempted to obtain a divorce, but the courts declared that she had no ground of complaint. She became the mother of a child after deserting her husband, thus carrying out her previous declaration that her child should never be born under his roof.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

The wheat seeded this fall in Loudoun county presents a very promising appearance.  
Specimens in the upper country complain of an unusual scarcity of partridges this season.  
The Richmond Dispatch claims that of the white vote cast at the recent election the debt-payers had a majority of 20,000.  
The life of the late Dr. R. F. Baldwin, superintendent of the Western Lunatic Asylum, at Staunton, Va., was insured for \$5,000.  
The corn crop of Loudoun county has yielded very satisfactory, and is larger than last year. The scarcity of Hay is made up by the increase of corn.

Alfred Horner, of Fauquier, killed a hawk last week that measured upwards of four feet between the tips of his wings. It was beating off a gray squirrel in his talons when killed.

The freight business on the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, is heavier than for some time. One day last week there were two hundred loaded cars at Lynchburg bound east.

Col. W. E. Cameron, of Petersburg, a leading readjuster, author of the statement that he is not a candidate for and will not, under any circumstances, accept any office in the gift of the General Assembly.

A report of the number of public schools in operation in the State during the years 1878 and 1879, with the pupils attending, shows that the schools decreased from 1,445 to 2,491, and the pupils from 202,241 to 108,071.

Most of the farmers in Loudoun and Fauquier counties who grow cattle, have purchased their stock for the coming season. The cattle bought are generally of good quality, and were purchased at from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per hundred.

On Wednesday night last, at the National Hotel, in Washington, J. Bradshaw Beverly and Albert B. Dowell, of Loudoun, had their gold watches and a sum of money taken from them by a thief who entered their rooms while they were asleep. They occupied different rooms. Beverly was relieved of his watch and thirty dollars in cash. Dowell lost only his watch.

As counsel for the plaintiff in error Wm. L. Royal has obtained a writ of error from the Supreme Court of the United States to the Court of Appeals of Virginia in the case in which the Court of Appeals decided that a marriage between a negro man and a white woman was void, and that the parties are liable to prosecution and punishment for such marriage. Mr. Royal contended that the Virginia law is contrary to the constitution of the United States, and is therefore void. The Richmond Dispatch says it is more than probable that the Supreme Court will order the case to be heard at an early day, and thus this vexed question will be finally put at rest.

W. Gordon Baugh, colored, and John Hall, white, mail carriers in the postoffice in Richmond, were arrested yesterday by a special agent of the Postoffice Department, charged with robbing the mail. For several months past it has been known that some one employed in the Richmond postoffice was pilfering the mails of money letters. The sums in most cases were small. Upon the person of Hall was found four dollars which had been sent by the agent in a decoy letter. Upon being closely pressed Baugh confessed that he was the culprit, and that Hall received the money found on his person from him in charge for a five dollar bill. Hall was discharged and Baugh held for his appearance before a United States commissioner to day. Ex-Congressman Rainey, colored, of South Carolina, was at Baugh's house at the time of his arrest.

## Letter from Fairfax County.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]  
CENTREVILLE, FAIRFAX CO., VA., Nov. 22.—More wheat has been sowed, I think, than any year since the war, and I never saw it look so promising at this season, owing to the most terrible and protracted drought in the memory of the oldest woman. I say woman, because she is much more reliable than men as to dates, having always some dates—for instance, when Sarah Jane was married, Tony sprained his knee, etc., etc.

Several springs on the handsome estate of Mr. J. P. Mather are dry, or nearly so, which have not been so for about forty years. Water has to be hauled for a steam saw mill near by, two or three miles.

Much damage to property was done by the wind storm on Thursday 15th. The frame work of Mr. Vannoy's handsome new dwelling was blown down, fender sheds scattered over the corn fields, and hay stacks blown over.

We are glad to say that Mr. R. M. Chichester, who was paralyzed some days ago, is improving, but has not yet recovered his speech. He is exceedingly popular.

The contest for the judgeship in this county is waxing warm, and petitions are being carried around and numerously signed. The present incumbent, Judge Sanster, will be opposed by Judge R. H. Coker, who presided over the County Court several years since, and who is held in high esteem in this section of his county.

Much credit is given Mr. Edmund Burke, of your city, counsel for the petitioners, for opening the gates of the "Little River Turnpike." Mr. Burke was a native of this county, and his father was said to be one of the most popular men who ever lived in it.

A popular man crop is any indication, and many persons believe that it is, that it is, this will be an excessively dry winter in Fairfax and a very moderate one in Loudoun. Signs to the contrary notwithstanding. Game is abundant this season, but few partridges are being killed, except by the hawks, while the old birds stand a slim chance.

THE ELECTRIC REL.—M. Marcy, who has for some years been engaged in the study of these very singular aquatic animals, has announced to the Academy of Sciences that he has received a living specimen of the gymnotus or electric eel from Peru, and that it is lodged in his laboratory at the College de France, where, by the by, any visitor is admitted to inspect it. The gymnotus is that peculiar fish which at its pleasure gives electric shocks, and thereby stuns the animal it desires to make its prey.

Its principal home is in the rivers and lagoons of South America, where it is the terror of all other animals, not even excepting the crocodile. One of these fish, which will reach to power, less than the eel and bores that come down to the stream to drink at the points it frequents, and thus render them an easy prey to their aquatic enemies. Man himself, though not so sensitive to the shock as the other animals, is its victims. M. Marcy has found during his investigations that a gymnotus of a meter in length has an electrical surface of about six hundred square feet, equal to a very powerful battery. The animal, owing to its length and the suppleness of its body, can produce different electrical effects according as it is a straight line, a curve, or a circle, as regards its prey. Its general mode of procedure is to form a semi circle, and place the fish it is intent on in the diameter of the circle. When the discharge is delivered the prey, as if by force, is thrown into the air, and is so paralyzed that it is as good as dead, as it is so assured of the efficacy of the shock, and then swallows his victim. These are not the only fish which possess the singular power of launching electrical discharges on their prey, but in no other is it so strong and so dangerous. Among them are the torpedo fish and some species of skate, which inhabit the coasts of Great Britain and France, and some other species which are found in the Nile and Senegal.

Dr. J. W. Neil, of Delaware, Ohio, was captured on Thursday night, while in the act of robbing a grave to the cemetery. An assistant named Pat Houchman was also arrested. They made a furious resistance and fired on the officers. Both were taken in prison to answer for the crime and assaulting the officers with intent to kill.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Correspondence of the Alect. Gazette.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24, 1879.  
Gentlemen who reached here from Richmond this morning say that the feeling among the conservatives there is more hopeful than it was immediately after the election, but that it is conceded even there that Gen. Mahone will be elected U. S. Senator. They also say, however, that some of the basement officers of the capital are confident of their re-election, and that Mr. Prayser, the public printer, also expresses himself as pretty sure of re-election. The conservatives are carrying on an extensive correspondence with all the counties in the State, but are very reticent concerning its character. They also say that the mere fact of a man's being a readjuster will not secure his election to a judgeship.

U. S. Senator Johnston of Virginia did not reach here last week, as was expected, but submitted the case he has before the Supreme Court in a printed brief. He will arrive here Saturday night and occupy his old rooms at 606, 13th street. The Senator, it is said, is enjoying much better health than formerly, having been improved considerably by the exercise he took in the recent campaign in his State.

The attendance upon the session of the U. S. Supreme Court to day was unusually large. Among the lawyers present were Mr. Cocking and Gen. B. Butler, the latter wearing his immense fur overcoat. A decision in the Virginia case is not expected for some time yet, and largely opinions on them by every member of the court, except Judge Hunt, who is still sick, will be written.

W. N. Adams has been appointed postmaster at Kneeland, Nelson county, Va., vice Mrs. S. E. Sprague, declined, and R. C. Williams at Plantersville, Lunenburg county, Va., vice J. W. Williams, resigned. The postoffice at Morris Hill, Allegany county, Va., has been discontinued because there were no candidates for the postmastership. The papers that went there will go to Covington.

The receipts at the Treasury to day from internal revenue amounted to \$546,242; from customs, to \$308,282. The national bank notes received for redemption amounted to \$105,000.

Among those who called upon Mr. Hayes to day were Judge Wilkings, of Alexandria, and ex-U. S. Senator Lewis, of Virginia. Fifty six boxes, loaded with coal, arrived at Georgetown yesterday and this morning. Talk about trying up for the winter has already commenced among the gentlemen, one of these who arrived here saying that the river was frozen at Cumberland, and the water low in the canal, and that this was the last trip he would make this season.

Quite an excitement was occasioned about noon to-day by an explosion of gas from a leaking motor in the cellar of the 6th street front of the National Hotel. The fire department was sent, and some of it went into service for a short time. But little damage was done and nobody was hurt.

The Capitol hours have been changed recently. The building is now opened at 9 a. m. and closed at 5 p. m.

A WELCOME GUEST.—The register at Barham's Hotel contained under yesterday's date among the list of new arrivals, in a bold and legible hand the name of Arthur C. Barham, Jr., Dr. J. B. Station, Culpeper county, Va. This guest did not enter the hotel in the usual way, and he was younger and smaller than any of the numerous strangers that frequent it; yet every one about the building appeared to be aware of his presence, and it seemed to be a theme of comment and was observed with appropriate honors. The little stranger made his appearance in this world shortly after one o'clock, and the happy father, Mr. A. C. Barham, who is a son to his wife, was born to him in the hotel, where it could be seen by all men. Mr. A. C. Barham is the nephew of Mrs. Dorsey, of Barham's Hotel.—*Blat's American.*

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—A collision between a freight and passenger train on the New London Northern R. R., occurred at half past seven o'clock this morning between Palmer and Three Rivers, Mass. The engines of both trains and two or three cars were wrecked. Seven persons, whose names have not yet been ascertained, were injured more or less severely.

## FUNERAL.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—The funeral of Peter Goetz, an eccentric millionaire, who died last Friday, took place this morning at St. Mark's Church. It was largely attended. The Episcopal services for the dead were read. The remains were interred in the family vault in St. Mark's Churchyard.

## DISABLED STEAMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., Nov. 24.—The Anchor line steamer Ceresius, from Glasgow for New York, arrived here this morning with the late time steamer City of Richmond in tow. The latter was bound from Liverpool for New York, and during the severe weather three days ago had her shaft broken. She will repair here. All well on board.

FIRE.—PORTLAND, ME., Nov. 24.—A big fire is raging at Secko's mills on the Grand Trunk Railroad; Tibbitts & Deather's mill, mill, saw factory and dry house, also Mr. Woodsum's store and stable are on fire. An engine has been sent from Bryant's Pond.

## SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 24.—A Commercial special from Canton, O., reports that a preliminary meeting of soldiers and sailors there to day effected a permanent national organization, and appointed Sept. 14th, 1879, for the holding of a national reunion at Canton.

## HOTEL ARRIVALS.

TONTINE.—T. R. Davis, Charles O. McJ. E. Davis, Leesburg; E. H. Williams, Danville; Cap. Thos Jones, Washington; J. L. Smith, Dr. Frank J. Tedford, Dr. Geo. Douglas, Col. Ryland Ruff, Dr. Judge James Sangster, Fairfax; R. M. Preston, Abingdon; E. O. Sylvester, Patuxent; J. B. Kinter, Danville; J. M. Henderson, Washington; R. C. Burrows and wife, Culpeper; M. J. Fogarty, New York; E. P. Turner, Philadelphia; R. Warren, Richmond; J. W. Worthington, Va.

TO TAXPAYERS.—A discount of two per cent will be allowed upon all city tax bills due for 1879, if paid by December 1, 1879. On the 22nd day of December, 1879, no discount will be allowed, but five per cent will be added, making a difference of seven per cent. nov 24 19

## MARRIED.

In this city, on the 24th inst., by Rev. Father O'Kane, of St. Mary's Church, Mr. FREDERICK J. KNOX, of Alexandria, and Miss ALICE BENNETT, of Georgetown.—(Wash. papers please copy.)

DIED.—At his residence, at the toll gate, on the Little River Turnpike, near this city, on Sunday morning, the 23rd inst., WILLIAM PENN, in the 64th year of his age. His funeral will take place to-morrow (Tuesday) at 2 o'clock, at which the friends and acquaintances of the family are invited.

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1879, at the residence of her husband, three miles west of Leesburg, after a protracted and painful illness, Mrs. LAURA E. T. CABB, consort of William B. Cabb, and daughter of the late Col. Wm. E. Phillips, Sixth Auditor of the U. S. Treasury.

ALL KINDS OF IRON, white and brown MIDDINGS, EYE CHOP and COCK MEAL for sale by  
nov 24 CHAS. S. TAYLOR, Jr.

## The President's Message.

A special dispatch to the New York Times from Washington gives what purports to be a synopsis of the forthcoming message of the President of the United States. The dispatch says:

"The message will be of ordinary length, and will recommend the enactment of very important measures. Mr. Hayes is of the opinion that the greenbacks should be gradually withdrawn from circulation and gold and silver issued instead, and he will ask Congress to pass a law immediately to carry his recommendations into effect. He will also request Congress to pass a law limiting the further coinage of standard silver dollars. He will give his reasons for asking this legislation. He believes that the continued coinage of standard silver dollars at the rate of not less than two millions per month will, at no far distant day, disturb the finances by driving the dearer metal (gold) out of circulation. The great difficulty that the Treasury officials encounter in finding storage room for the accumulated tons of the standard silver dollars will be mentioned as another reason why their coinage should be regulated so that no more will be issued from the mint than can be maintained in permanent circulation.

"The message will contain a brief history of Secretary Sherman's refunding operations for the past year, and great stress will be laid upon the scores which have attended the placing of the four per cent loan. Mr. Hayes will ask Congress to pass a law to enable Mr. Sherman to continue the refunding of the debt by purchasing the five and sixes, which will reach maturity in the next few years, and refunding them in four per cent bonds. Authority is denied to pay such premium for these bonds as will enable them to be refunded with a saving of interest to the government. Mr. Sherman, in his annual report, will present a draft of a bill for this purpose.

"Congress will also be asked to pass a law for the protection of foreign trade marks in the United States.  
"A great portion of the message will be devoted to a review of the effort of the Administration to reform the civil service and the success which has attended it. It was Mr. Hayes' idea at the beginning of his term to place the power of appointing and removing officials in the hands of Congress and the people. He desired to establish a system of re-election in office and promotion would depend exclusively upon the merit of the employee, and he flatters himself that in great part this work has been accomplished. He desires that, if possible, his successor will enforce the system that he believes has been successfully inaugurated under his administration.

"The message will also deal with the subject of the interference of government employees in political affairs. Mr. Hayes does not approve of officeholders becoming war politicians, dictating at the primaries and in conventions the candidates of the people. He recognizes the fact that a man, by taking office, does not relinquish his political rights, and he only desires that the officeholder shall commit himself decently and not neglect his public duties to mingle in politics.  
"The message will probably contain some reference to the investigations which have been made during the summer of the North American fisheries. The subject of a Nicaragua canal will be alluded to, its importance urged, and a fuller survey of the country through which it would pass will be suggested.

## The Late Mrs. Dickens.

Mrs. Catherine Hogarth Dickens, widow of Charles Dickens, the novelist, died Saturday morning, November 22, at her residence in Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park, London, aged about sixty-five years. She had been suffering for more than a year from a lingering illness. Mrs. Dickens was the daughter of the late George Hogarth, a well known man of letters, who was an early associate of Charles Dickens on the staff of the London Morning Chronicle. She was married April 2, 1836, three days after the appearance of the first number of the "Pickwick Papers." She lived with Mr. Dickens for twenty-two years on terms of apparent happiness and mutual affection, as is testified by the collection of Dickens' "Letters," just published, in which a large portion of the contents of the first volume (from 1833 to 1856, inclusive) was addressed to her in a tone of great cordiality. From the latter date the letters to her are conspicuous by their absence, nor is any reference to her existence readily discernible in the concluding volume. Mrs. Dickens accompanied her husband during his first visit to the United States in 1842, during his Italian journey of 1844, and during many visits to France. She bore him seven sons and three daughters, of whom the second son, Walter Landor, a lieutenant in the 6th Royal Highlanders, died suddenly at Calcutta, December 31, 1854, aged 23 years; the fifth son Sydney Smith, a naval officer, died at sea in 1872, and the youngest daughter, Dora, died in infancy in 1851. The survivors are now named Charles, Francis, Jeffrey, Alfred, and Henry Fielding, and Edward Walter Lytton, of whom the first named is now recognized as an author, while Alfred and Edward are farmers in Australia. Of the two younger daughters, the elder, Mary (called "Nelly"), has just sent her father's "Letters," and her younger, Catherine, has just married to Mr. Charles Alford Collins, brother of Wilkie Collins, the novelist, and on his death to Mr. Perugini. As is well known Mr. and Mrs. Dickens separated in June, 1858, and she ever since lived a very retired life in London. The cause of the separation have never been authentically made known. Mr. Dickens biographically preserves the greatest reticence on the subject, though the chief blame is allowed by him to rest upon the novelist, in accordance with the general current of public opinion.

## PHILADELPHIA, November 24.—Cattle

slowly; receipts 2600; prime 4; good 4; medium 4; common 3 1/2. Sheep—market brisk; receipts 3000; prime 5; good 4; medium 3 1/2; common 3. Lams—market brisk; receipts 600; prime 5 1/2; good 4; medium 3 1/2; common 3. Hogs—market brisk; receipts 4500; prime 4 1/2; good 4; medium 3 1/2; common 3. Sugar—firm; a soft 10 1/2. Whiskey—firm at 1 1/4 1/2 1/2.

## ARRIVED.

Str Ann Silica, Philadelphia, to F. A. Reed. Str Sue, Baltimore, to J. Broders & Co. Str J. W. Thompson, Norfolk, to F. A. Reed. Str J. W. Thompson, Norfolk, to F. A. Reed. Str J. W. Thompson, Norfolk, to F. A. Reed.

## PORT OF ALEXANDRIA, NOVEMBER 24.

Sun. Fine. 6.50. Sun. calm. 1.10

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